

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2485

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 27, 2000

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SNOWE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Saint Croix Island
5 Heritage Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) Saint Croix Island is located in the Saint
2 Croix River, a river that is the boundary between
3 the State of Maine and Canada;

4 (2) the Island is the only international historic
5 site in the National Park System;

6 (3) in 1604, French nobleman Pierre Dugua
7 Sieur de Mons, accompanied by a courageous group
8 of adventurers that included Samuel Champlain,
9 landed on the Island and began the construction of
10 a settlement;

11 (4) the French settlement on the Island in
12 1604 and 1605 was the initial site of the first per-
13 manent settlement in the New World, predating the
14 English settlement of 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia;

15 (5) many people view the expedition that settled
16 on the Island in 1604 as the beginning of the Aca-
17 dian culture in North America;

18 (6) in October, 1998, the National Park Service
19 completed a general management plan to manage
20 and interpret the Saint Croix Island International
21 Historic Site;

22 (7) the plan addresses a variety of management
23 alternatives, and concludes that the best manage-
24 ment strategy entails developing an interpretive trail
25 and ranger station at Red Beach, Maine, and a re-

1 regional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, in
 2 cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;

3 (8) a 1982 memorandum of understanding,
 4 signed by the Department of the Interior and the
 5 Canadian Department for the Environment, outlines
 6 a cooperative program to commemorate the inter-
 7 national heritage of the Saint Croix Island site and
 8 specifically to prepare for the 400th anniversary of
 9 the settlement in 2004; and

10 (9) only 4 years remain before the 400th anni-
 11 versary of the settlement at Saint Croix Island, an
 12 occasion that should be appropriately commemo-
 13 rated.

14 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct
 15 the Secretary of the Interior to take all necessary and ap-
 16 propriate steps to work with Federal, State, and local
 17 agencies, historical societies, and nonprofit organizations
 18 to facilitate the development of a regional heritage center
 19 in downtown Calais, Maine before the 400th anniversary
 20 of the settlement of Saint Croix Island.

21 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) ISLAND.—The term “Island” means Saint
 24 Croix Island, located in the Saint Croix River, be-
 25 tween Canada and the State of Maine.

1 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
3 rector of the National Park Service.

4 **SEC. 4. SAINT CROIX ISLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE CEN-**
5 **TER.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-
7 sistance in planning, constructing, and operating a re-
8 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, to fa-
9 cilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint
10 Croix Island International Historic Site.

11 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out sub-
12 section (a), in administering the Saint Croix Island Inter-
13 national Historic Site, the Secretary may enter into coop-
14 erative agreements under appropriate terms and condi-
15 tions with State and local agencies and nonprofit
16 organizations—

17 (1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (in-
18 cluding employing individuals to provide such serv-
19 ices), and technical assistance;

20 (2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dis-
21 semination of information relating to the Saint Croix
22 Island International Historic Site;

23 (3) to provide financial assistance for the con-
24 struction of the regional heritage center in exchange
25 for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret

1 the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site;
2 and

3 (4) to assist with the operation and mainte-
4 nance of the regional heritage center.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
8 appropriated to carry out this Act (including the de-
9 sign and construction of the regional heritage cen-
10 ter) \$2,000,000.

11 (2) EXPENDITURE.—Paragraph (1) authorizes
12 funds to be appropriated on the condition that any
13 expenditure of those funds shall be matched on a
14 dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from non-Federal
15 sources.

16 (b) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—There are au-
17 thorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary
18 to maintain and operate interpretive exhibits in the re-
19 gional heritage center.

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